

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05
CIAE-00 PM-03 DODE-00 SP-02 L-01 OMB-01 PRS-01
MCE-00 AF-04 ACDA-10 IGA-02 /064 W
-----064420 171211Z /44

R 170847Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4102
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USCINCEUR
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7319

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, IR, SO, US
SUBJ: POSSIBLE IRANIAN TO SOMALIA

1. AFTER DINNER AT ITALIAN EMBASSY AUGUST 16, SOMALI
AMBASSADOR (WHO IS MILITARY OFFICER) TOOK ME ASIDE FOR
LONG, IMPASSIONED PLEA ON US ARMS AID TO SOMALIA. HE
INSISTED THAT US IS RECEIVING ERRONEOUS INFORMATION
ABOUT SITUATION IN HORN OF AFRICA AND THAT IT IS MENGITSU'S
INTENTION TO OBLITERATE SOMALIA.

2. AMBASSADOR WAS PARTICULARLY VEXED BY REPORTS HE HAD
READ OF SPEECH BY FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER IN NAIROBI.
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ACCORDING TO HIM, MINISTER HAD SAID THAT FRANCE WOULD BE
VERY RESERVED IN ITS ARMS SUPPLY TO SOMALIA. AMBASSADOR
AVERRED THAT SOMALIA WAS THE ONLY THING THAT STOOD BETWEEN
KENYA AND ITS ULTIMATE DOMINANCE BY SOVIET-INSPIRED
ETHIOPIA. HE SAID FRENCH VIEWS REPRESENTED "MISUNDERSTANDING"
WHICH PLAGUES ALL WESTERN GOVERNMENTS, WHICH FAIL TO
COMPREHEND THAT SOMALIA IS FIGHTING WEST'S BATTLE IN

NORTHEAST AFRICA.

3. I REPLIED THAT I KNEW VERY LITTLE ABOUT SITUATION IN HORN OF AFRICA BUT IT SEEMED TO ME THAT SOMALIA WAS CURRENTLY FIGHTING FOR ITS OWN INTERESTS BY ATTEMPTING TO CAPTURE TERRITORY WHICH IT CLAIMED IN THE OGADEN. I FAILED TO SEE WHAT WESTERN INTERESTS WERE INVOLVED IN THAT CAMPAIGN. AS FAR AS SOVIET INVOLVEMENT WAS CONCERNED, I NOTED PRESENCE OF SOVIET MISSION IN SOMALIA AND CONTINUED SUPPLY OF SOVIET ARMS TO SOMALIA. FINALLY WITH RESPECT KENYA, I SAID WE FELT KENYANS WERE GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT SOMALI IRREDENTISM INTO THEIR TERRITORY.

4. SOMALI AMBASSADOR GLOSSED OVER THE QUESTION OF MOTIVES IN THE OGADEN, BUT EMPHATICALLY STATED THAT SOVIET MISSION WOULD BE ASKED TO LEAVE AS SOON AS ASSURED SUPPLY OF WEAPONS FROM THE WEST IS WORKED OUT. AS FOR KENYA, HE WOULD CABLE IMMEDIATELY TO PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE RECOMMENDING A PUBLIC STATEMENT REASSURING KENYA ABOUT SOMALI INTENTIONS.

5. COMMENT: THIS ENCOUNTER WAS RATHER OBVIOUSLY ARRANGED BY ITALIAN AMBASSADOR, WHO PERSONALLY SYMPATHIZES WITH SOMALIS. HOWEVER, THE INTENSITY OF THE SOMALIAN PLEA SUGGESTS THAT SOMALI EMBASSIES HAVE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS TO WORK OVER THEIR AMERICAN COLLEAGUES. THE STRESS ON "TIMELINESS" INDICATES THAT THEY MAY HAVE
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SIGNIFICANT CONCERN ABOUT AN ETHIOPEAN COUNTERATTACK IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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